

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00562 290909Z

11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-02 H-02 SY-05 /020 W

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O 290610Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7090

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC MA (REPPAS, GEORGE S)

SUBJECT: W/W REPPAS

REF: TANANARIVE 0554

1. CONSULAR OFFICER CALLED ON DIRECTOR OF STUDIES AT FONMIN PAUL RAKOTONDRAMASY TO DELIVER DIP NOTE ASKING FOR APPOINTMENT WITH HEAD OF PENAL SERVICES TO DISCUSS RETURN OF REPPAS TO PRISON (REFTEL). DURING DISCUSSION CONSULAR OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT REPPAS FAMILY AND "WASHINGTON" CONCERNED ABOUT REPPAS SAFETY IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS AND EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO ASSURE HIS SAFETY. DIRECTOR OF STUDIES NOTED THAT PERHAPS SOME PLACE OUT OF TANANARIVE COULD SERVE AS PLACE OF DETENTION. CONSULAR OFFICER AGREED THIS MIGHT BE BETTER, BUT SUGGESTED SOME FORM OF SURVEILLANCE BY PENAL SERVICE INSTEAD OF CONFINEMENT IN PRISON. CONSULAR OFFICER EXPANDED ON THIS IDEA BY NOTING THAT LANGUAGE OF DIP NOTE SUGGESTING REPPAS REPORT TO PRISON WAS SUCH THAT IT COULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN SOMETHING LESS THAN RENEWED CONFINEMENT.

2. DIRECTOR OF STUDIES THEN TELEPHONED BOTH SECGEN OF MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND DIRECTOR OF PENAL SERVICE, AND APPARENTLY (SPEAKING IN MALAGASY) OUTLINED DISCUSSION TO THEM. AT END OF TELEPHONE CALLS HE INFORMED CONSULAR OFFICER THAT DIRECTOR OF PENAL SERVICES WOULD MEET WITH CONSULAR OFFICER MORNING OF APRIL 2. RAKOTONDRAMASY STATED

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THAT PLACE OF DETENTION WAS INDEED OPEN TO DISCUSSION,

AND THAT DIRECTOR OF PENAL SERVICES HAD MENTIONED MILITARY RECREATION HOUSE ON NEARBY LAKE A POSSIBILITY. ANY PLACE TOO FAR FROM TANANARIVE RULED OUT, HE CONTINUED, BECAUSE REPPAS COULD BE CALLED AS WITNESS IN CURRENT TRIALS. AT END OF CONVERSATION DIRECTOR OF STUDIES SAID THAT OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF JUSTICE FELT THAT THIS MATTER BETTER HANDLED AT WORKING LEVEL, AND THAT VISIT TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE BY AMBASSADOR ON THIS QUESTION COULD "COMPLICATE MATTERS" AND "NOT HAVE GOOD RESULTS."

3. RAKOTONDRAMASY ALSO ASSURED CONSULAR OFFICER THAT REPPAS CAN REMAIN AT EMBASSY UNTIL QUESTION SETTLED.  
MENDENHALL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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